イーブン
even
MIMAN 未幡
小特集
部活
Bukatsu!!

THIS WAY IT'S DIVIDED EVENLY IN HALF...
Even though she used to be so meek and docile...
THAT'S FAIR, RIGHT?
YEAH.
YEAH...
THIS ONE WILL BE MINE, AND THAT ONE WILL BE YOURS, OK?
AH...
THEN, LET'S DIG IN!

.....
YOU CAN HAVE THE LITTLE SOLDIER, IT'S FINE.
EH?–
YOU SURE?
IT'S NOT LIKE WE CAN CUT IT IN HALF.
.....
BUT THEN YOU DON'T GET ANYTHING, CHITOSE-CHAN.
I'VE GOT ENOUGH.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
NOW IT'S NOT FAIR ANY-MORE!

YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO BELONG TO ME, NAO.
You're not a possession to belong to somebody... well, more to the point...
Ah, I see!
THAT WAY IT'S FAIR, RIGHT?
Please don't sell yourself over a piece of cake...
Nao always used to follow me around wherever I went.

But the Nao from that time is no longer anywhere to be found.
five Left!
Since we joined the basketball team in middle school, Nao has changed.
Well, I've certainly gotten some running in_

On the basketball team, the best player
is the person who's admired and respected.
As for me...
clang
Ah, cripes.
.....
FOUR LEFT!
AT THIS STAGE PASS FORWARD!
5-man weave DRILL
Right now, Nao is the person occupying that place.
Everyone acknowledges that.
Almost there, almost there!
Four left!

NINETEEN LEFT...
Well, you'd reach it quicker counting from the bottom than from the top.
My place would be
TWENTY LEFT...
YOU COMING?
NAO, WHAT ABOUT YOU?
click
rattle
I DO!
ME TOO!
ANYBODY FEEL LIKE STOPPING SOMEWHERE?
AHH... NO GOOD, I'M ABOUT TO COLLAPSE FROM HUNGER.
chatter
chatter
I AM NOT ANTISOCIAL!
ANTISOCIAL AS EVER, HUH?
It wouldn't hurt to just go with them once in a while
YOU'LL HAVE TO PLAN WITHOUT ME.
SORRY, I'LL PASS.

Nao probably doesn't realize, inviting her was the whole point from the start.
Bye bye
CHITOSE!
LET'S GO.
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN...
Then you should have just gone along with them...
IT MAKES ME FEEL A LITTLE HUNGRY MYSELF.
WHEN I THINK HOW EVERYONE ELSE IS EATING RIGHT NOW,
YOU KNOW, SOME-HOW,
VZZZZ ZZZT
VZZZZ ZZZT

LET'S CROSS THE STREET HERE.
AH, CHITOSE, RIGHT HERE.
Nao also probably doesn't notice...
...A CONVENIENCE STORE?
YEAH. LET'S MAKE A LITTLE STOP.

How they all think: "Why does she go home with someone like her!?"
slide
SORRY FOR THE WAIT!
CAN YOU BELIEVE, THERE WASN'T A SINGLE ONIGIRI LEFT.
Why do I have to get dirty looks from the freshman girls
just because Nao wants to stop somewhere for a snack?
WHAT'S UP?
.....
Jerk!
Quit being so thickheaded! Quit being so popular!

Nowadays, I'm a bit scared of Nao.
IT'S NOTH-ING...
FROM THE SOUND OF IT...
SHOULDN'T YOU JUST QUIT THE BASKETBALL TEAM?
NO, I SHOULD *NOT* QUIT.
BUT IT REALLY DOESN'T SUIT YOU AT ALL, DOES IT?
I'M JUST NOT THAT GOOD, IS ALL.
GETTING ALL SWEATY AND STUFF...
I WOULDN'T LAST A WEEK.
YOU'VE DONE IT FOR A WHOLE YEAR, RIGHT? THAT'S PLENTY.
WELL... IT'S JUST FRUSTRATING.

NAO WOULDN'T HAVE EVEN JOINED THE TEAM IF I HADN'T AGREED TO JOIN TOO.
WHERE DOES SHE COME OFF GETTING SO GOOD AT IT?
ANYWAY, WHEN I TOLD HER I'D GO ALONG WITH HER,
THAT WAS COMPLETELY MY OWN DECISION, SO...
IF I QUIT NOW IT'LL BE JUST LIKE I'M RUNNING A-

...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
THIS IS "YUMI'S BUSINESS SMILE!"
Giggle
YOU'RE ALWAYS WEARING YOURSELF OUT AT THAT CLUB... THEY DON'T EVEN LET YOU GROW YOUR NAILS OUT!
IT'S SUCH A WASTE, FOR SOMEBODY AS CUTE AS YOU!
I WASN'T TRYING TO.
That's right. What I need to do...
is keep on wearing myself out.
THANKS, YUMI.
YOU'VE MADE ME FEEL A BIT BETTER.

Just keep wearing myself out, until I get better.
da ng
NEXT!
Get up on defense
Don't get frus- Leave trated the miss behind

Nao's game is pretty predictable.
Every time she gets the ball, she drives straight for the hoop.
Gets the ball, and then....
WHAP
WHAM
CHITOSE!!
FOUL!
...GUESS WE'D HAVE TO CALL THAT ONE ON THE DEFENCE?
But on who!?

INFIRMARY
HMM...
LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOTTEN PRETTY RED.
WELL, FOR NOW, JUST TRY RESTING ON YOUR SIDE.
SEE HOW YOU FEEL IN A BIT.
OK.
WE CAN WAIT ON CONTACTING YOUR FOLKS ABOUT IT.
OK.
IF IT STARTS TO FEEL WORSE, CALL OUT TO ME, ALL RIGHT?
...OK. THANK YOU.
bzzzz
bzzzz
bzzzz
Nao
Blew right through me

Nao!
Chitose-chan!
Chitose-chan!
We'll always be friends, 'K?

I wonder if Nao has forgotten all those things.
The Nao I know today isn't Nao at all.
I've always treasured her.
I haven't at all forgotten
the Nao I knew back then.

knock knock
ka-chik
CHITOSE?
I'LL LEAVE IT HERE.
YOUR UNIFORM AND STUFF.
CHITOSE...?

CHITOSE,
LET'S GO.
STOP PULLING ON MY ARM.

USED TO BE LIKE THIS AT ALL, NAO.
YOU DIDN'T...
Even though Nao, following me around like that,
YOU KNEW YOU WERE HELPLESS WITHOUT ME.
I USED TO HAVE TO LEAD YOU EVERYWHERE BY THE HAND.
BUT EVEN IF YOU'RE GOING TO CHANGE, AND FORGET ALL THAT...
COULD YOU AT LEAST STOP DESTROYING MY MEMORY OF THE NAO I KNEW BACK THEN?
Was always so adorable...

.....
CHITOSE... YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL.
WE'RE NOT KIDS ANYMORE.
STUBBORNLY REFUSING TO LISTEN TO ANYBODY...
HANGING ON TO
ALL OUR CHILDHOOD MEMORIES.
...WELL, TO ME, THEY'RE VERY PRECIOUS MEMORIES...
DON'T TREAT IT LIKE A THING OF THE PAST.

I STILL BELONG TO YOU, CHITOSE.
I'M JUST NOT A KID ANYMORE.

Nao suddenly tried acting all mature,
but still said something so childish.
That kind of thing...
just isn't fair.

End

Even

by Miman

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